In the Claims:

Claim 1 (original) A clear stable aqueous solution comprising an alkali metal silicate waterglass, a water soluble aluminate and a hydroxy carboxylic acid.

Claim 2 (currently amended) A solution according to claim 1 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the water soluble aluminate is an alkali metal aluminate.

Claim 3 (currently amended) A solution according to ~~either of claims 1 or 2 characterised in that~~ claim 1 wherein the water soluble aluminate is a sodium aluminate.

Claim 4 (currently amended) A solution according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3 characterised in that~~ claim 1 wherein the hydroxycarboxylic acid is an α-hydroxy carboxylic acid.

Claim 5 (currently amended) A solution according to claim 4 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the hydroxycarboxylic acid is selected from the group comprising tartaric acid, malic acid, gluconic acid, lactic acid, saccharic acid and citric acid.

Claim 6 (currently amended) A solution according to claim 5 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the hydroxycarboxylic acid is citric acid.

Claim 7 (currently amended) A solution according to ~~any of the preceding claims characterised in that~~ claim 1 wherein the alkali metal silicate waterglass having a weight ratio SiO_2:M_2O of from 2.0:1 to 4.0:1 where M represents an alkali metal cation.

Claim 8 (currently amended) A solution according to claim 7 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the sodium silicate waterglass has a weight ratio SiO_2:Na_2O of from 2.5:1 to 3.0:1.

Claim 9 (currently amended) A solution according to ~~either of claims 7 or 8 characterised in that it~~ claim 7 further ~~comprises~~ comprising a potassium silicate waterglass

Claim 10 (currently amended) A solution according to claim 9 ~~characterised on that~~ wherein the potassium silicate has a weight ratio SiO_2:K_2O of from 1.43:1 to 2.05:1.

Claim 11 (currently amended) A solution according to ~~either of claims 9 or 10 characterised in that~~ claim 9 wherein the molar ratio of sodium ions to potassium ions is at least 2:1.

Claim 12 (currently amended) A solution according to ~~any of the preceding claims characterised in that~~ claim 1 wherein the molar ratio of silicon to aluminium is in the range 20:1 to 35:1.

Claim 13 (currently amended) A solution according to claim 12 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the molar ratio of silicon to aluminium is in the range 25:1 to 32:1.

Claim 14 (currently amended) A solution according to ~~any of the preceding claims characterised in that~~ claim1 wherein the weight ratio of silica to alkali metal oxide is in the range 2:1 to 4:1.

Claim 15 (currently amended) A solution according to ~~any of the preceding claims characterised in that it~~ claim 1 further ~~comprises~~ comprising a polyhydric compound.

Claim 16 (currently amended) A solution according to claim 15 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the polyhydric compound is glycerol.

Claim 17 (currently amended) A clear intumescent interlayer ~~characterised in that it has been~~ produced by drying a solution according to ~~any of claims 1 to 16~~ claim 1 under controlled conditions.

Claim 18 (currently amended) An interlayer according to claim 17 ~~characterised in that it comprises~~ comprising from 10 to 35% by weight of water.

Claim 19 (currently amended) An interlayer according to ~~either of claims 17 or 18 characterised in that it comprises~~ claim 17 comprising from 0.1 to 5.0% by weight of aluminium.

Claim 20 (currently amended) An interlayer according to ~~any of claims 17 to 19 characterised in that~~ claim 17 wherein the interlayer has a thickness of form 0.5 to 2.0 mm.

Claim 21 (currently amended) A glass sheet having an interlayer according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 17 ~~to 20~~ on one surface thereof.

Claim 22 (currently amended) A laminated glazing which comprises one or more interlayers according to ~~any of claims 17 to 20~~ claim 17 and two or more sheets of glass.

Claim 23 (currently amended) A method for producing a solution according to ~~any of claims 1 to 16 characterised in that~~ claim 1 wherein a solution comprising a water soluble aluminate, a hydroxycarboxylic acid and a polyhydroxy compound is added to an alkali metal silicate solution.

Claim 24 (currently amended) A method according to claim 23 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the aluminate is sodium aluminate.

Claim 25 (currently amended) A method according to ~~either of claims 23 or 24 characterised in that~~ claim 23 wherein the hydroxycarboxylic acid is citric acid.

Claim 26 (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 23 to 25 characterised in that~~ claim 23 wherein the polyhydroxy ~~compounds~~ compound is glycerol.

Claim 27 (currently amended) A method according to a~~ny of claims 23 to 26 characterised in that~~ claim 23 wherein the solution comprising the aluminate is formed by ~~a parrtially neutralising~~ partially neutralizing the aluminate with the hydroxy carboxylic acid.